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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Letter dated 9 December 2005 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

At its sixtieth plenary meeting, on 1 December 2005, the General Assembly was informed that the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/568) entitled "Implementation of decisions from the 2005 World Summit Outcome for action by the Secretary-General: ethics office; comprehensive review of governance arrangements, including an independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system; and the independent audit advisory committee" would be considered in informal consultations of the plenary, on Tuesday, 6 December 2005, under the two co-Chairs in charge of Secretariat and management reform, namely, Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan) and Mr. Allan Rock (Canada).

Informal consultations on the report of the Secretary-General were held on 6 and 9 December 2005 under the chairmanship of the two co-Chairs.

At the conclusion of the informal meeting on 9 December, the co-Chairs stated:

> Emerging from our discussions on 6 December and today, there is a strong agreement among Member States that there is a need for comprehensive reform in the Organization. There is also agreement regarding the urgency of this process and a need to show momentum. This can be achieved both here and in the Fifth Committee.
>
> On the three proposals outlined in the Secretary-General's document:
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> First, while there were several comments on the details of the ethics office, there is agreement on the decision to create the ethics office. This proposal has also been considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and will be finalized in the context of the budget process.

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Second, there is recognition that the independent external review will take place, though some work remains on the details of the terms of reference for that review and other details.

Third, questions regarding the desirability of creating the independent audit advisory committee prior to the completion of the independent external review were raised.

In all three cases, but particularly the last two, there is some technical work that needs to be done at the expert level. As such we have requested that the Secretary-General submit the document to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

We also intend to suggest to the President of the General Assembly that he advise the Chairman of the Fifth Committee to request that the Committee undertake the necessary deliberations on the Secretary-General's proposals on an expedited basis, and that recommendations be brought to the attention of the plenary by 19 December, so that the plenary can take the necessary decisions on all three proposals before the holidays.

Accordingly, the report of the Secretary-General is hereby being transmitted for consideration by the Fifth Committee, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

I request that the recommendations of the Fifth Committee be transmitted to the plenary by 19 December 2005.

(*Signed*) Jan **Eliasson**